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## DEPARTMENT OF RED CROSS NURSING

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### THE SCHOOLS OF NURSING IN THE OLD WORLD

#### II. WARSAW

THE Warsaw School of Nursing was established with the understanding that the American Red Cross was to furnish nurses for the administrative and teaching personnel, pay transportation and provide, if funds permitted, such incidentals as teaching equipment, interpreters and text books. School buildings, maintenance and hospital facilities for practical experience were to be furnished by the Polish authorities. The sum of \$10,000 annually for three years has been pledged by a young American nurse who wishes her great generosity to remain anonymous.

In consonance with the established policy of the American Red Cross to lay the foundations of all its educational and health work on such coöperative and constructive lines that upon Red Cross withdrawal the project may be successfully carried on, an able and active training school committee was created as the first step in the building up of the school. On this committee are representatives of the various interested groups, leading men and women of the Ministry of Public Health, the Ministry of Education, the Warsaw University and the Municipality as well as the Polish Red Cross. Speaking of this Committee, Miss Hay writes, after a recent tour of inspection, "They appeared to me unusually broad and receptive."

In the selection of a suitable personnel the Warsaw school has been exceptionally fortunate. Helen L. Bridge, the Director, was formerly with the American Red Cross in Siberia. Stella Tylski, her assistant, is a native of Poland, but received her training in America, having done settlement work at Hull House under Jane Addams, later serving overseas. She also helped carry out the educational programme of the Public Health Service in Charlotte, N. C., and recently took a short course in hospital and training school administration at Teachers College. Mrs. Josephine Jokaitis was also born in Poland and was with the Red Cross overseas. Like Miss Tylski she received her preparation as a nurse in this country. Alexandra Zarzycka is a graduate of the London Hospital and a native of Poland.

Miss Bridge has been unhampered by precedents and has had a virgin soil in which to carry out her ideas. The school has, therefore, been established on a basis which has been long regarded by the nurs-

ing authorities in America as the ideal standard but which, even in America, has more often than not failed of accomplishment.

The length of the course is two years. Candidates must be at least eighteen years of age and must have completed six classes in the "Gymnasium," or its equivalent. What is rather unusual in this country, candidates must send a copy of their birth certificates and, if under age, must produce statements signed by the legal guardian granting permission to enter the school. Furthermore, a tuition fee of 1000 marks, payable upon entrance, is charged.

During the first three months of probation, in addition to their tuition, the students pay maintenance fees of 100 marks per day, for board, room, and a limited amount of laundry. After the probationary period they receive maintenance without charge. Students possessing desirable qualifications, without means to meet the costs, may apply to the Director for scholarships.

The curriculum for the preliminary course includes all the subjects recommended in the standard curriculum prepared by the National League of Nursing Education and covers a period of three months. During this period the pupils are not sent to the wards of the hospital. A six weeks' course of public health nursing is given during the second year under a highly qualified instructor, including both theoretical and field work.

The School has been established in connection with the Smolna Hospital. This was built by the Russians on a very elaborate plan with many buildings. After the Russian evacuation it was taken over by the Polish Red Cross and operated as a military hospital. One of the buildings has been assigned as a school building.

Interest in the school from the outset was so widespread that more than 125 letters of application were received. The first applicant was the daughter of a Polish Countess, a splendid girl, but too young. She has been withdrawn until next year. The first application to be completed was that of Mary ———, a fine young woman who had had one year at the University of Warsaw.

Miss Bridge writes:

Is it not significant that our first accepted candidate should come to us so well prepared? I choose to read in it a good omen and trust that it bodes well for the future. Of the first four accepted two have had two years at the University. Almost every candidate speaks French and a number also speak English. The majority of our applicants are from families whose names are recognized throughout Poland and as I look into their faces I feel sure that the standards of the profession in this country will be safe in their hands.

The attitude of the physicians on the Council and others in Warsaw toward the school is most promising. To illustrate the feeling

of the Committee Miss Bridge quotes from a memorandum prepared by a Polish physician :

I have begun to take English lessons only a few months ago and cannot yet speak fluently, so you must allow me to read to you this memorandum.

I have got only one head, two arms and two legs and that is not enough for my work. Other doctors for children are in the same position. So I am obliged to get more heads, arms and legs for my work. That is why I want to create in Poland a whole army of nurses for children. The question of nurses is a serious one and must be seriously treated.

How much time is wanted for training a nurse? At least two years. All that time she must be in ideal surroundings, which will allow her to forget the world. When she will leave the school for nurses she will feel the contrast between the life in the school and the rest of the world. She will try to raise that every-day life to the high level which she had at the school.

As the work developed, Miss Bridge was requested by the Polish Red Cross to assume responsibility of the nursing work in the entire hospital, as well as the housekeeping department, including the kitchen, laundry and dietary. It means a big responsibility and hard work for the Red Cross staff, but it means also a wonderful opportunity to demonstrate in Warsaw the best of nursing and hospital methods. A qualified dietitian with administrative experience will be added to the staff. She will also be expected to give a course in cookery to the students. Miss Bridge writes further :

The weeks immediately before the date set for the entrance of the students were very much crowded, and I feared that we would not be ready after all. However, in spite of many delays, due chiefly to the inefficiency of a so-called engineer who had charge of the renovation of the buildings, Miss Tylski and I came down to live here on October 13, 1921.

Miss Zarzycka came to live in the School several days before the entrance of the students. She is a woman of great tact and interest and I feel that though she may lack some of the technical training, she has much to contribute that the American nurse could not possibly give. Having her with us is a good thing from the standpoint of the psychology of the Poles. As you know, Miss Zarzycka is a graduate of the London Hospital and comes from a very cultivated Polish family, her father being Alexander Zarzycka, a well known musician and composer.

The night before the students were to arrive I sat down at about ten o'clock, giving final instructions to the housekeeper and I wondered whether it would be possible to serve three meals the next day and make the students reasonably comfortable. The day had been so hectic that things seemed far from in order and the cook was to arrive only the next morning. I wish I could adequately describe the day! In addition to all the things we had to do, we had a Committee meeting. In spite of my anxiety, however, the cook arrived the next morning and we had three good meals served promptly, and at the last minute we even secured the curtains that were lacking for the bath room.

*(To be continued)*

## ITEMS

**D**URING the week of January 23, a meeting of the Division Managers of the American Red Cross was held at National Headquarters for the purpose of reviewing the programme of the Red Cross and of making such administrative changes and eliminating processes as would be consistent with the most economical and efficient regime. Public Health Nursing and the courses in Home Hygiene and Care of the Sick, also the Nutrition Classes and those in Food Selection were discussed and decided to be proper and legitimate chapter activities.

The Northwestern Division is to be combined with the Pacific Division, the headquarters for the joint territory to be in San Francisco.

Interest in American Red Cross work is evidenced by the strength of the chapters which, according to the latest statistics available, (October 30, 1921) numbered 3,595 in the United States, and 3,648 in the entire organization,—including our insular and foreign possessions. While the general membership has decreased, the interest of the chapters is very active and is concentrated more upon community problems, the smaller chapters taking the liveliest interest in the betterment of local family life.

**M**ABEL CLARKE and Betty McCreery, members of the Red Cross Nursing Service, have recently been assigned to the Near East Relief. At the present time the American Red Cross has working with this organization twenty-eight of its enrolled nurses. They are engaged in various nursing activities in Asia Minor and in and around Constantinople.

**V**IRGINIA MASON GIBBES, of South Carolina, goes to the Philippines this spring to take charge of the nursing activities of the Philippine Chapter. This Chapter has entered upon a broad public health nursing programme with classes in Home Hygiene and Care of the Sick and preparation of health visitors. Miss Gibbes will plan, organize and direct the work the chapter will do.

**A** PAMPHLET of recipes has been prepared and translated into French by Vashti Bartlett, formerly Director of the Nursing School at Port-au-Prince for the use of the Haitian pupils. The little book will be of incalculable value in presenting to these young women practical methods of preparing diets for the sick.

Miss Griffith, who was with Miss Bartlett in Haiti, has written a similar pamphlet in the French language on the subject of surgery.

Another translation of the Red Cross text book, Home Hygiene and Care of the Sick, has been made, this time into Polish, for the classes in that country. The copyrights have been carefully safeguarded.

**C**HARLOTTE E. VAN DUZOR, after seven years of faithful service with the American Red Cross, has given up her most recent position, Assistant to the Director of the Public Health Nursing Service, to become Vocational Secretary for the National Organization for Public Health Nursing in New York City. Prior to 1918, Miss Van Duzor was attached to the Red Cross Town and Country Nursing Service as school nurse for Kent County, Michigan, where her system of educational and follow-up work with the families of the children is still regarded as a model piece of work.

## RED CROSS FUTURE IN EUROPE

A GREAT deal of discussion is overheard regarding the withdrawal from Europe by the American Red Cross on June 1st. It may be interesting to note briefly the plan now under consideration for this closing down of operations. This is but the fulfillment of the preconceived plan of transferring responsibility for the continuance of child health and nursing activities to local agencies, with a certain amount of professional supervision by American doctors and nurses in certain areas for a limited period. For example, such individual units as the nurses' training schools in Poland will be continued until the Red Cross obligations are discharged in full.

Inasmuch as there would be waste in maintaining more than one relief organization in Russia, the medical and hospital supplies which the American Red Cross has been furnishing for that country in the past through the American Relief Administration, will continue to be distributed through those channels until the fund of \$3,000,000 appropriated by the Red Cross for this purpose has been exhausted. The Russian relief, however, is directed from National Headquarters and is not affected by the withdrawal of the American Red Cross from Europe.

## WHO'S WHO IN THE NURSING WORLD

## X. ISABEL MAITLAND STEWART

BIRTHPLACE: Fletchers, Ontario, Canada. PARENTAGE: Scotch. PRELIMINARY EDUCATION: High School in Chatham, Ontario, and in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada; Normal School, Winnipeg, Taught in public schools three years. COLLEGE EDUCATION: B.S. and A.M., Columbia University. PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION: Winnipeg General Hospital. POST-GRADUATE WORK: Teachers College. POSITIONS HELD: Visiting Nurse, Winnipeg (short time); Head Nurse, Winnipeg General Hospital; Assistant and Instructor and Assistant Professor, Department of Nursing and Health, Teachers College; Vice-President National League of Nursing Education (one year); Secretary N. L. N. E. (one year); Chairman Vocational Guidance Committee of N. L. N. E.; Secretary Education Committee of N. L. N. E. (six years); Chairman Education Committee of N. L. N. E. (two years); Vice-President of New York League of Nursing Education (two years). AUTHOR OF: Collaborator with L. L. Dock in *Short History of Nursing; Opportunities in the Field of Nursing; The Case for Shorter Hours in Schools of Nursing; Developments in Nursing Education Since 1918* (U. S. Bureau of Education); Pamphlets During the War; other articles and pamphlets.

## ARCHIVES OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

The American Occupational Therapy Association launched its official organ, *Archives of Occupational Therapy*, in February. The initial number contains an invaluable article by Dr. Adolf Meyer, of Johns Hopkins University, the Philosophy of Occupational Therapy, and other articles which should interest nurses as well as those engaged in this newer field of endeavor. The format of the new journal is attractive. An unique and useful feature consists of a series of abstracts of the current articles included in the table of contents, thus enabling the busy reader to get to the heart of such material as may be of interest to him, individually, without loss of time. The new journal has a promising future.